

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /067 W

----- 072334

R 021500Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2303

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS THESSALONIKI 0227

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: MORE COMMENTARY ON MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

REF: THESSALONIKI' S 0222

1. CONTINUING ITS COMMENTARY OF CONCERN OVER LAST SUNDAY' S FIRST ROUND OF MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, CONSERVATIVE "ELLINIKOS VORRAS" TODAY PUBLISHED FRONT-PAGE COMMENTARY BY ITS SENIOR EDITOR ELIAS KYROU DECRYING ELECTION IN MANY IMPORTANT MUNICIPALITIES OF SLATES SUPPORTED BY COMMUNISTS, PASOK AND "OTHER POLITICAL FORCES NOT FRIENDLY TO GOVERNMENT". KYROU SAYS IT RELATIVELY UNIMPORTANT WHETHER ELECTED MAYORS ARE COMMUNIST OR NOT. OF IMPORTANCE IS THAT THEY ACCEPTED "COLLABORATION AND SUPPORT OF COMMUNISTS" AND HAVE "MORAL AND POLITICAL DEPENDENCE UPON THEM", NOT TO MENTION THOSE "PURE-BRED COMMUNISTS" WHO WERE ELECTED.

DESPITE GOVERNMENT EFFORTS , EDITOR WRITES, ELECTIONS IN BOTH THESE MUNICIPALITIES AND IN VILLAGES, WHERE A LARGE NUMBER OF OPPOSITION SLATES VOTED IN, BECAME POLITICIZED. THIS WILL SOON BECOME EVIDENT SINCE THESE UNITS CONSTITUTE "BASIC CELL" OF SELF GOVERNMENT AND COUNTRY' S PUBLIC LIFE. ELECTIONS PROVED AGAIN, HE CONCLUDES, THAT "WELL ORGANIZED, UNCLASSIFIED

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METHODICALLY DIRECTED AND FULLY DEDICATED MINORITY"

CAN PLAY POLITICAL ROLE "GEOMETRICALLY" DISPROPORTIONATE TO SIZE.

3. ACCOMPANYING FRONT PAGE PIECE OBSERVES THAT NON-COMMUNIST CANDIDATES FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ON SLATE OF EDA AND PASOK- BACKED MAYORALTY CANDIDATE PAPADOPOULOS FELL FAR BEHIND COMMUNISTS WHO HAD ORGANIZED PARTY SUPPORT ON SAME TICKET. IT CHARGES COMMUNISTS ARE PREPARING "NEW OFFENSIVE" TO SEIZE MUNICIPALITY OF COUNTRY' S SECOND CITY AND URGES COALITION OF NON-LEFT FORCES BEHIND CENTRIST CANDIDATE ZANNAS TO HEAD OFF THIS THREAT.

4. COMMENT: MORE CONCERN IS BEING HEARD AS TO PROSPECTS FOR LEFTIST GRAB OF OFFICE IN MAYOR AND MUNICIPAL COUNCIL RUN-OFF NEXT SUNDAY. ONE REPORT CIRCULATING IS THAT CAMPAIGN TEAM TO SPEARHEAD PAPADOPOULOS DRIVE IS ARRIVING HERE FROM ATHENS TODAY, WHILE ANOTHER HAS IT THAT DEFEATED CANDIDATES TSIROS AND PASCHOS ARE URGING THEIR FOLLOWERS TO CAST BLANK BALLOTS RATHER THAN VOTE FOR ZANNAS AS "PROTEST" GESTURE. AFTER TWO DAY HIATUS, ELECTIONEERING HERE GATHERING STEAM FOR SHOWDOWN VOTE THIS WEEKEND.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, PRESS COMMENTS, MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975THESSA00227
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750114-0731
From: THESSALONIKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750487/aaaadbvr.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 THESSALONIKI' S 0222
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <08 JAN 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORE COMMENTARY ON MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS
TAGS: PINT, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006